



Research Division Note #2 - January 24, 1983

ARTIST EMPLOYMENT IN 1982

1,055,000 artists were employed in 1982, a decline of 7,000 from the total of employed artists in 1981, according to data released by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) in January 1983. This is the first downward year-to-year change in this statistic since these data became available from BLS in 1971.

Unemployment rates are the most widely used index for the economic condition of the labor force and the BLS data shows that unemployment rates for the entire American labor force reached higher levels in 1982 than during the preceding major recession period of 1973-75. However, the overall artist unemployment rate in 1982 was 6.6%--about as high as the levels of 1975, the artists' peak unemployment year in the 1973-75 recession. A cause of this relative stability may be that the total artist labor force growth has slowed down. It increased by only 9,000 persons from 1981 to 1982.

Actors - The unemployment rate for actors was over 37% in 1982 compared with 35% in 1975 when the economy was last in a major recession. However, because of growth in the actors' labor force, 77% more actors were employed in 1982 compared with 1975.

Architects - The unemployment rate of 4.5% for architects in 1982 compared with 2.2% in 1981, 1.7% in 1980 and 5.4% in 1975. The number of employed architects grew rapidly between 1977 and 1980, reaching 90,000. Only 4,000 additional jobs were created in 1981 and 1982.

Authors - The unemployment rate of 3.2% in 1982 was slightly below the rate of 3.6% in 1975. Unlike the architects, the 1982 data for authors shows 3,000 fewer persons in this occupation than in 1981. This is the first year-to-year decline in the author labor force since 1972.

Dancers - The labor force of dancers was relatively stable in the decade of the 1970s--10,000 persons in 1971 and 12,000 in 1980. From 1980 to 1982, the number of persons in this occupation increased to a total of 18,000--the largest number of dancers that has been enumerated in BLS data. The estimates for dancers are subject to greater sampling error

than for the other artist occupations where the numbers in the occupation groups are much larger. For this reason, no dancers' unemployment rates are calculated. Nevertheless, the recent change in labor force size is substantial and is evidence of growth.

Designers - The number of employed designers has increased each year since 1971 with the sole exception of 1975. This favorable trend continued between 1980, 1981 and 1982, reaching a total of 221,000 employed designers.

Musicians/Composers - The unemployment rate for musicians/composers went down to 7.2% in 1982 from 9.6% in 1981. This is the only artist occupation in which the unemployment rate declined from 1981 to 1982. However, there has been virtually no change in the number of employed musicians/composers for nearly 10 years. The number employed in 1982--149,000, is the same as in 1978.

Painters/Sculptors - The number of employed painters/sculptors declined from its all-time peak of 211,000 persons in 1981 to 208,000 in 1982. The all-time high unemployment rate of 6.5% occurred in 1976. Subsequently, the unemployment rate declined, reaching a low of 2.0% in 1979, but has been rising since then. It was 2.2% in 1980, 4.0% in 1981 and 4.9% in 1982.

Photographers - The employment pattern has been deteriorating for photographers since 1980 when 111,000 were employed and the unemployment rate was 2.8%. In 1981, 101,000 photographers were employed and the unemployment rate was 4.6%. In 1982, only 96,000 photographers were employed and the unemployment rate stood at 5.4%.

Radio/TV Announcers - The unemployment rate for radio/TV announcers in 1982 was 6.7%--below their 8.7% unemployment rate of 1975. However, the numbers of radio/TV announcers in this occupation group tends to fluctuate widely. The total labor force was 28,000 persons in 1971. Since then, it reached lows of 19,000 in 1973, 1979 and 1980. It jumped to 27,000 in 1981 and declined slightly to 26,000 in 1982.

Caveats: The advantage of the information in this Research Division Note is its comparability with the most widely published national data about employment and unemployment. The BLS data is used to assess the changing economic condition of the American labor force. Statistically valid comparisons are possible between over 400 different occupation groups. A disadvantage is that the definitions and the standardized classification requirements do not match precisely with the special conditions of certain occupations, such as where a substantial proportion of persons are self employed, like authors and photographers, or for occupations that do not provide full employment during the year, like actors and musicians/composers. More complete information for the decade of the 1970s, can be found in Research Division Report #16, Artist Employment and Unemployment 1971-1980.

**Artist Labor Force, Employment and Unemployment
Compared for 1982, 1981, 1980 and 1975**

<u>Occupation</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1975</u>
<u>All professional and technical workers</u>	<u>17,530,000</u>	<u>16,888,000</u>	<u>16,008,000</u>	<u>13,173,000</u>
Employed	16,951,000	16,419,000	15,613,000	12,748,000
Unemployed	579,000	469,000	395,000	425,000
Unemployment rate	3.3%	2.8%	2.5%	3.2%
<u>All Artists</u>	<u>1,129,000</u>	<u>1,120,000</u>	<u>1,020,000</u>	<u>823,000</u>
Employed	1,055,000	1,062,000	978,000	764,000
Unemployed	74,000	58,000	42,000	59,000
Unemployment rate	6.6%	5.2%	4.1%	7.2%
<u>Actors</u>	<u>37,000</u>	<u>34,000</u>	<u>23,000</u>	<u>20,000</u>
Employed	23,000	25,000	15,000	13,000
Unemployed	14,000	9,000	8,000	7,000
Unemployment rate	37.3%	26.9%	35.4%	34.8%
<u>Architects</u>	<u>98,000</u>	<u>95,000</u>	<u>92,000</u>	<u>74,000</u>
Employed	94,000	93,000	90,000	70,000
Unemployed	4,000	2,000	2,000	4,000
Unemployment rate	4.5%	2.2%	1.7%	5.4%
<u>Authors</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>74,000</u>	<u>71,000</u>	<u>47,000</u>
Employed	69,000	72,000	70,000	45,000
Unemployed	2,000	2,000	1,000	2,000
Unemployment rate	3.2%	2.2%	1.9%	3.6%
<u>Dancers</u>	<u>18,000</u>	<u>16,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>8,000</u>
Employed	17,000	15,000	10,000	6,000
Unemployed	*	*	*	*
Unemployment rate	*	*	*	*
<u>Designers</u>	<u>233,000</u>	<u>226,000</u>	<u>198,000</u>	<u>135,000</u>
Employed	221,000	218,000	193,000	125,000
Unemployed	12,000	8,000	5,000	10,000
Unemployment rate	5.2%	3.4%	2.6%	7.6%
<u>Musicians/Composers</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>160,000</u>	<u>153,000</u>	<u>151,000</u>
Employed	149,000	145,000	143,000	139,000
Unemployed	11,000	15,000	10,000	12,000
Unemployment rate	7.2%	9.6%	6.2%	7.7%
<u>Painters/Sculptors</u>	<u>219,000</u>	<u>220,000</u>	<u>199,000</u>	<u>155,000</u>
Employed	208,000	211,000	195,000	146,000
Unemployed	11,000	9,000	4,000	9,000
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.0%	2.2%	5.9%
<u>Photographers</u>	<u>102,000</u>	<u>106,000</u>	<u>114,000</u>	<u>81,000</u>
Employed	96,000	101,000	111,000	76,000
Unemployed	6,000	5,000	3,000	5,000
Unemployment rate	5.4%	4.6%	2.8%	6.5%
<u>Radio/TV Announcers</u>	<u>26,000</u>	<u>27,000</u>	<u>19,000</u>	<u>24,000</u>
Employed	24,000	25,000	19,000	22,000
Unemployed	2,000	2,000	*	2,000
Unemployment rate	6.7%	5.6%	*	8.7%
<u>Teachers (higher ed.)**</u>	<u>38,000</u>	<u>46,000</u>	<u>37,000</u>	<u>39,000</u>
Employed	37,000	45,000	36,000	38,000
Unemployed	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Unemployment rate	2.3%	1.9%	2.5%	2.9%
<u>Other artists</u>	<u>127,000</u>	<u>116,000</u>	<u>102,000</u>	<u>89,000</u>
Employed	117,000	112,000	96,000	84,000
Unemployed	10,000	4,000	6,000	5,000
Unemployment rate	7.9%	3.4%	6.0%	5.2%

* Data base is too small for estimate

** Art, drama and music

Source: Unpublished data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics from the Current Population Survey